The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1919.

WHOLE NO. 424.

"BABY ARISTOCRACY" MEANS CHANCE TO LIVE

Washington, May 17.—The children's bureau of the United States department of labor has created an "aristocratic" class for babies, and is battling to put every babe in this exclusive set.

To be a member of the "aristocracy" a baby must meet these requirements: The father must earn a fair wage; the mother must not have been gainfully employed either during the year before or the year after the baby's birth; the mother must at least have fair medical care when the baby is born; both father and mother must be able to read and write; the house the baby lives in must be well ventilated, clean, sanitary and not overcrowded.

After a study of 25,000 cases the children's bureau reports that these five conditions are absolutely necessary for a baby to secure entrance into the "aristocracy" class.

In a study of Brockton (Mass.) babies, the bureau says that only 206 of the 1,210 babies born alive in that city during the year could meet the "aristocratic" requirements. Fifty-five per cent of these babies were barred from the "aristocracy" because their fathers' earnings were less than the standard established.

A number of babies were unable to qualify because their mothers could not read and write. The report points out that invaluable sources of information on the care of her baby are closed to the illiterate mother. The greatest mortality was found among the babies who live in the most congested homes, although Brockton, it is stated, has no acute housing problem. The report recommends the passage of laws that will make overcrowding impossible.

1 IN 5 HAVE UNION CARDS.

Washington, May 17.—President Luther C. Steward, of the National Federation of Federal Employes, in commenting on the growth of trades unions in this city said:

"The government workers are by far the largest element of the population of Washington and the four local unions of the national federation include a membership, which is approximately 25,000. To these are to be added the organized trades employed in both government and private establishments, the school teachers, who are 80 per cent organized, the railroad office workers, who are several thousand strong in this city; the city firemen; school custodians and janitors; making a probable percentage of one person in every five residents of the city, now carrying union cards."

WHY THEY WANT WOMEN.

New York, May 17.—Employers in this city are asking for girl workers who live at home, according to Miss Mary H. Tolman, in charge of the United States employment service's women's professional section, and who is quoted in a local paper:

"The purpose of these employers is obvious—they want to pay low wages. I know of only six cases in the last month where women workers were replaced by discharged soldiers. It is not being generally done.

"There is practically no unemployment problem, so far as women workers are concerned. An unskilled woman worker can get a job merely by asking for it. She may receive only $12 or $15 a week, which is not a cent more than is required to maintain her. Indeed some firms ask for girl workers who live at home."

ENFORCE CHILD LABOR TAX.

Washington, May 17.—The internal revenue bureau has announced that the child labor section of the revenue bill will be enforced regardless of the decision of Federal Judge Boyd of North Carolina, that a 10 per cent tax on the profits of a concern employing child labor is unconstitutional.

"The constitutionality or unconstitutionality of the section is a question to be determined by the United States supreme court," said Commissioner Roper.

WAGES INCREASED.

Akron, Ohio, May 17.—As the result of an agreement between the street car men and Northern Ohio Traction company a wage advance was secured of 5 cents per hour for the city lines, while the interurban men were favored by a rate that calls for 50 cents per hour. The same company also made concessions acceptable to members of Electrical Workers' union and thereby avoided threatened trouble.

STEREOTYPERS GET RAISE.

Fresno, May 17.—Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union No. 104 has signed a new wage scale with newspaper publishers. Foremen are advanced to $6.50 for night work and $6.25 for day work; journeymen, $5.75 for night work and $5.66 2-3 for day work. The old scale was $5 for night and day foremen and $4.50 for night and day work done by journeymen.

PAPER MILL WORKERS OUT.

Glens Falls, N. Y., May 17.—The Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers' Union and mechanics have declared a strike against the International Paper company as a result of a refusal to concede an increase in wages. The trouble involves 32 plants, some of which have entirely ceased operations, involving several thousand men.

ELECTROTYPERS STRIKE.

Boston, May 17.—One hundred members of Electrotypers' Union No. 11 discontinued work when the employers refused to meet them to consider a demand for an increase of $1 per day, the request for the conference having been served January 1, last.

8 HOURS AND WAGE RAISE.

Spokane, Wash., May 17.—Members of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union employed in the repair shops have been granted an eight-hour day and an advance in wages, covering all shops in the city.

PLUMBERS REORGANIZE.

Dubuque, Iowa, May 17.—During the absence of plumbers and steam fitters at the various cantonments on government work the union lapsed. Since they returned the union has been reorganized.

TEACHERS IN LINE.

Atlanta, Ga., May 17.—Several hundred teachers in this city have affiliated with the trade union movement.

BETHLEHEM STEEL IN LINE.

Bethlehem, Pa., May 17.—The Bethlehem steel company has signed a collective bargaining plan with its employes, who are represented by a general committee of over 100 members. Several months ago the national war labor board ordered the company to establish a system of collective bargaining. For various reasons this order was postponed by the company, while the unions have continuously urged its application. When the first shop election was held to elect delegates to a convention that would choose members of the committee that would represent the men, the company attempted to secure the election of non-unionists, but the organized workers controlled the convention and nominated representatives. Since then delays have occurred until the present time.

While the agreement does not recognize trade unions as such it is an advanced step, which the Pennsylvania Labor Herald declares to be "a great victory." Editor Williams, who is also business agent of the Machinists' union, has been in the thick of this contest, together with A. F. of L. Organizer Duffy. Williams is not unduly elated, as is indicated by this word of caution printed in the last issue of his paper:

"The working success or failure of this plan will depend upon the men standing by their respective unions. Remember the different committees that made 24 trips to Washington, and the trips to New York city were made possible by the labor unions."

COMPARATIVE WAGE RATES.

Washington, May 17.—Union scales of wages in 104 of the principal trades or occupations in 56 of the largest cities in the United States were higher on May 15, 1917, than on May 15, 1916, according to the department of labor, states in a report on wage conditions in the trades.

Of the 17 brewing trades listed, 10 received advances ranging from 5 to 7 per cent. Thirty-eight of the building trades listed received increases of 1 to 11 per cent. Chauffeurs, teamsters and drivers of 2 per cent, and granite and stone cutters, 4 and 5 per cent, respectively.

Greatest increases are shown for the metal trades, 10 of which had increases from 6 to 13 per cent. In book and job printing five to 12 occupations had increases of 5 to 9 per cent. In newspaper printing only one occupation had an increase as great as 5 per cent.

Rates of wages per hour advanced more than weekly wage rates because of the slight reduction in hours. Taken collectively, rates per hour in 1917 were 7 per cent higher per hour in 1916, and 27 per cent higher than in 1907.

Thirty-four trades show a reduction of hours of labor between 1916 and 1917, and 71 had no change.

ENFORCE CHILD LABOR TAX.

Washington, May 17.—Enforcement of the child labor tax provisions of the revenue act will be continued "vigorously" by the bureau of internal revenue regardless of the decision of a North Carolina court holding the child labor section of the act unconstitutional.

In making this announcement last night Daniel C. Roper, commissioner of internal revenue, pointed out that the section's constitutionality "is a question to be decided by the supreme court of the United States."

In addition to 15 inspectors employed by the revenue bureau to ascertain the ages of children employed in businesses coming within the scope of the law, the bureau's entire force of agents and deputy collectors, it was said, will be enlisted in carrying out the provisions of the section, which became effective April 25.

24-HOUR BANK STRIKE.

Brussels, Belgium, May 17.—Employes of banks and insurance companies went on a 24-hour strike in support of their demands for a general betterment of working conditions. All the banks were closed.

Paris, France, May 17.—The striking bank employes are insisting on having a delegation of their own submit claims to employers and not through the minister of labor as proposed by the bankers, refusing to resume work until it is met.

GAINS BY BOOKBINDERS.

Indianapolis, May 17.—Officers of the Brotherhood of Bookbinders report a membership gain of 352 for the month of April.

Providence, R. I., May 17.—Women employed in local book binderies have organized.

Quebec, Canada, May 17.—A strike of organized bookbinders in this city has resulted in wage increases.

DEMAND RECOGNITION.

Norfolk, Va., May 17.—Two thousand men in nine trades in shops doing contract and navy work are on strike, demanding recognition of the water front federation. A government conciliator on the ground who is endeavoring to reach a settlement between the employers of 15 shops affected and representatives of the strikers.

BARBERS GRANTED RAISE.

Boston, Mass., May 17.—The demand for increased wages by Barbers' union has been met by nearly all the shop owners of the city. The new scale calls for an increase from $15 to $20 per week, an advance of $5, with one-half of the receipts of each chair over $26. The original demand was for shorter hours, but that was withdrawn.

UNION CO-OP. STORE.

Ogden, Utah, May 17.—The union men of this city have formed a co-operative grocery store, and it has already proved its popularity and is doing a big business. No announcement of the plan was given to the press until it had fully been matured and over 500 shares sold. Shares are held only by members of unions.

SIGNS WORK-LIMIT BILL.

Albany, N. Y., May 17.—Governor Smith has signed a bill which prohibits women elevator operators from working after 10 o'clock at night or more than 54 hours a week. Hotels are not included in the law, which becomes effective September 1.

BUTCHERS CEASE WORK.

Toronto, Ont., May 17.—Meat butchers and packers numbering 3,000 are on strike here to compel recognition of their union and granting of demands for a 44-hour week and a wage increase.

STAYING IN SCHOOL PAYING PROPOSITION

Washington, May 17.—The value of staying at school is stated in dollars and cents in figures compiled by the bureau of education and now being distributed to boys and girls throughout the country by the children's bureau.

From a study of a large number of actual cases it had been found that at 25 years of age the boy who remained in school until he was 18 had received $2,000 more salary than the boy who left school at 14, and that the better-educated youth was then receiving more than $900 a year more in pay.

"This is equivalent to an investment of $18,000, at 5 per cent," the statement said. "Can a boy increase his capital as fast in any other way?

"From this time on the salary of the better-educated boy will rise still more rapidly, while the earnings of the boy who left school at 14 will increase but little."

While wages have increased with the war, the proportions shown in a table of weekly earning still hold true, the statement said. The boy who left school at 14 at the time the investigation was made received an average of $4 a week, his wages increasing each year to $7 a week at 18. The boy who remained in school until he was 18 began work at $10 a week.

At 20 the salaries were $9.50 a week for the boy who left school early and $15 for his better-trained competitor. At 25 they were earning $12.75 and $31, respectively, and total wages up to that time had been $5,112.50 and $7,337.50, so that the boy who remained in school had earned nearly 50 per cent more in eight years than the other had in 12 years.

NO GENERAL INCREASE.

Washington, May 17.—If the workers could subsist on butter and eggs they would now be enjoying a substantial decrease in food cost. The weather has affected these comodities and their decreased prices for February 15, 1919, as compared with January 15, 1919, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics, was as follows: Fresh eggs, 33 per cent; storage eggs, 22 per cent; butter, 19 per cent.

During the same period 11 articles increased in price ranging from less than five-tenths of 1 per cent for sirloin steak to 5 per cent in the price of onions, cabbage and coffee. There was no price change in rib roast, plate beef, bread and corn flakes.

Because of the slump in butter and eggs a total decrease of 7 per cent for the month is recorded, when in fact, other of the score of food commodities have either remained stationary or been advanced.

In February, 1919, the cost of all articles of food combined was 7 per cent higher than in February, 1918. Round steak, chuck roast and plate beef each increased, per pound, 24 per cent; sirloin steak, chuck roast and prunes, 22 per cent; rice, 21 per cent, and coffee, 20 per cent. Navy beans decreased 24 per cent and strictly fresh eggs, 17 per cent.

TO CURB CHILD LABOR.

Washington, D. C., May 17.—Strong indorsement of a program calling for the extension of child labor restrictions to agricultural work was voiced by delegates to the international conference on child welfare standards in this city.

Sir Cyril Jackson, British delegate, explained the British education measure, passed during the last year of the war, which provides that all children shall attend school regularly up to the age of 14, and that between the ages of 14 and 18 their employers shall give them opportunity to attend continuation school for at least 320 hours a year.

Statistics of the interior department were cited to show that illiteracy and ignorance are deeply rooted in many rural communities of the United States.

WIN 20-MINUTE STRIKE.

San Pedro, Cal., May 17.—Backed by the metal trades' council the electrical workers employed by the Southwestern ship yards won a strike in 20 minutes. The trouble arose over the discharge of a member of the union who refused to work Saturday half holiday and more than 44 hours per week. With his reinstatement an agreement was secured that insures a Saturday half holiday and double time for work on Sundays and holidays.

SOLDIERS SEEK WORK.

Washington, May 17.—Of the 711,147 American soldiers discharged between February 8 and April 19, 180,724 requested governmental assistance in securing work, according to an official statement just issued. The proportion of those requesting assistance to the total discharge was highest in the weeks of March 8 and 15, when about one-third sought aid.

GOOD WORK BEING DONE.

San Diego, Cal., May 17.—As a result of the active organizing campaign that has been carried on here for the past few weeks two new unions have been formed and others are reported to be nearly ready to join the number now in existence. The new unions are teamsters and laborers, and applications for charters have have been forwarded.

SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE MADE.

Peoria, Ill., May 17.—The strike of Electrical Workers' union No. 34 has been settled, the contractors conceding a rate of 60 cents an hour. The wage scale as agreed upon reads: 60 cents an hour for journeymen, and 50 cents for helpers, replacing the old scale of 55 cents and 40 cents.

LONG CONTEST ENDED.

Tarentum, Pa., May 17.—After a continuous battle against the Flint Glass Workers' union for over 36 years the Flaccus Glass company has signed a union agreement. The long struggle has been marked by much feeling.

FORM CO-OPERATIVE ASSO.

Olympia, Wash., May 17.—Articles of incorporation for the Longshoremen's Co-operative association have been is- for the purpose of carying on a co-operative stevedoring business at Seattle and other ports on the west coast.

CHARTERS SENT FOR.

Spokane, Wash., May 17.—Unions of upholsterers and roofers have been organized and applications made for charters.

BURLESON BREAKS OWN RULE

Washington, May 17.—Postmaster General Burleson has broken one of his own rules and brazenly ignored the civil service regulations when he appointed William F. Gibbons, of Scranton, Pa., assistant postmaster in that city, declares Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer of the National Federation of Postal Employes.

Secretary Flaherty says that for 20 months Gibbons has been carried on the Scranton postoffice pay roll and during that time he has been in Washington acting as secretary of an association of post office clerks. In this capacity he upheld the Burleson policies "and in a stealthy way he spread the word throughout the service that Mr. Burleson was opposed to the clerks joining the A. F. of L." Gibbons refused to join with other postal employes' organizations in a request to the postmaster general for official recognition of the postal unions.

"Now," says Secretary Flaherty, "as a reward for this support the postmaster general, in violation of the service regulation has given Gibbons a life job at $2,625 a year."

The trade unionist then takes the case of Edward J. Gainor, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, who was refused a leave of absence to permit him to attend to duties connected with the organization. The postmaster general refused on the ground that he had issued contrary orders. An appeal by President Gompers in behalf of Gainor was fruitless and the letter carrier was compelled to resign from the post office department.

WAGES ARE NOT HIGHER.

Washington, May 17.—The so-called "princely wage" of building craftsmen does not impress a committee appointed by the commissioners of the District of Columbia to investigate the building situation in the nation's capital.

The committee reported that prospective builders can gain nothing by postponing building operations, and in discussing labor costs, the committee said:

"The wage scale of the building industry, taken as a general proposition shows an increase over prewar times, but in reality the wage of the worker suffers by comparison with that paid to the building trades mechanic prior to the declaration of the war. With the cost for the maintenance of the family doubled, it will be observed that the purchasing power of the dollar has been reduced by one-half, while the wage of the building trades mechanic has not increased two-fold. War-time commodity prices still exist.

"It is not to be expected that wages will be reduced so long as that which sustains the worker and his family remains at present price level, for the normal wage is one that will provide a normal livelihood for the employe and his family."

REJECT PENSION PLAN.

San Juan, Porto Rico, May 17.—The several thousand locked out employes of the Porto Rico American Tobacco company have rejected the company's pension plan as a settlement for the present differences.

The plan provided that the company would set aside $100,000 and would add to it five cents a week for each person employed by the company, provided the employes would contribute five cents a week. From this fund it was proposed to pay weekly benefits to all employes on strike until work in the factories could be provided for them.

FAVOR FEDERAL OWNERSHIP.

Washington, May 17.—Government ownership and operation of railroads, packing plants and the war emergency fleet will be advocated by the Farmers' National council during the next session of congress as part of a "reconstruction program" which it will endeavor to have adopted, according to a statement by the managing director of the organization.

The council also will endeavor to secure the repeal of the espionage act and to retain legislation levying the highest rates on incomes and war profits, and will oppose all legislation designed "to give away any more of the country's natural resources."

NEW LABOR LAWS ENACTED.

Albany, N. Y., May 17.—Women newspaper workers and reporters are exempt from the provisions of the labor law in relations to hours of labor of minors and women, just signed by the governor.

Another bill relating to women which was signed by the governor extends the protection of the labor law to women and minors employed in connection with street railway systems.

FARM LOANS LARGE.

Washington, May 17.—The federal farm loan system is now doing about 25 per cent of all agricultural land loan business in the United States. A report of the farm loan board at the conclusion of the second year of operation shows that loans closed in the last 12 months amounted to $130,228,000. The aggregate of farm loans made by all agencies, public and private, is estimated at about $800,000,000 annually.

NEW BARBERS' UNIONS.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 17.—General Secretary-Treasurer Jacob Fischer reports in the May issue of the Journeyman Barber the following new unions: Brickville, Canada; Tyrone, Pa.; Waynesboro, Pa.; Alexander, Va.; Johnstown, Pa.; Brunswick, Ga.; Cisco, Texas; Chambersburg, Pa.; Cumberland, Md., and Bristol, Conn.

WANT UNION SHOP

Columbus, Ohio, May 17.—Fifteen thousand building craftsmen struck when the building contractors refused to permit them to enforce the universal working card and union shop conditions. The 16 organizations composing the building trades council are affected.

WON THEIR STRIKE.

Hamilton, Canada, May 17.—After nine days' idleness the painters and decorators won their strike for increased wages and an eight-hour day. The increase is 7½ cents per hour, making the new scale 52½ cents. The men have been endeavoring for years to attain the shorter hour day.

DEMAND 6-HOUR DAY.

Parker City, Utah, May 17.—One thousand miners have declared a strike for a six-hour day and a $5.50 wage. The United States labor department has assigned a conciliator.

PRINTERS' WAGES RAISED.

New York, May 17.—Acting as arbitrator in the wage dispute between Typographical Union No. 6 and the newspaper publishers of this city, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison has ruled that the day and night scales of these workers shall be increased $9 a week, dating from April 1. The printers asked for $9. In supporting his decision the arbitrator quoted government statistics that living costs in this city have advanced 78.79 per cent since 1914 against a wage increase of 15 per cent for the printers during that time.

"If the printer," said the arbitrator, "had received increases based upon the $30 a week standard for day work in 1914, comparative to the increased living cost of 78.79 per cent, he would have to receive $53.60 a week to maintain the same living standard. If the printer be conceded an increase of $9 per week, his wage is brought up to $43.50. Accept these figures and comparison will show that there is still a difference of approximately $10 per week, which burden must be borne by the printer until such time as living costs have decreased comparatively."

The arbitrator held that it is not equitable "to ask the printers to continue to accept a standard of living lower than the publishers themselves agreed to when they accepted pre-war rates."

St. Louis, Mo., May 17.—At the conclusion of conferences between representatives of the job printing offices and local unions interested contracts were agreed to that carried with them increases of $1 and $2 per week, although present agreements do not expire until September 1, 1920. Those benefiting are: Compositors, cylinder and job pressmen, cylinder press feeders, book binders, paper rulers and book finishers. Job pressmen and bindery women were increased $1 per week.

Elmira, N. Y., May 17.—The Star-Gazette has given its employes an advance of $2 per week, increasing the scale to $26. Because of a long-time contract the printers were prevented from demanding an increase. The action of the Star-Gazette was no doubt the result of an effort to retain such printers as it now has, realizing that if concessions were not made they would seek work where more favorable conditions prevail.

Louisville, Ky., May 17.—More than 300 printers employed in the three largest job offices in the city struck to secure recognition of the union and a minimum wage rate of $30 per week. They claim that unless their demands are granted that all the non-union offices will also join the strikers.

Dallas, Texas, May 17.—This new scale has been agreed to by the Typographical union and weekly newspaper and job office employers: Journeymen advanced from $27.50 to $34, and foremen from $32.50 to $39 per week, being an increase of $6.50.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 17.—The printers employed on the Commercial are out on strike, demanding that the paper sign the union scale. Negotiations have been on for over six months.

STRIKE VOTE FAVORABLE.

Springfield, Ill., May 17.—The result of the referendum vote upon the question of calling a nation-wide strike of electrical workers, announced by C. P. Ford, international secretary of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, shows that the question was carried by about eight to one.

The vote was taken as a result of Postmaster General Burleson refusing to meet the demands of the men for recognition of the union and a wage advance. Secretary Ford is hopeful that a favorable adjustment can be reached when President Wilson returns from Europe.

61 FIRMS GRANT 48 HOURS.

Cincinnati, Ohio, May 17.—The Metal Polishers International union through its Our Journal gives a list of 61 firms that have recently signed agreements to put into effect the eight-hour day or 48 hours per week with increased wages. It also says that where shop agreements are still in existence no effort will be made to enforce the shorter work day, but at the their expiration renewal of agreements will only be made on a basis of the 48-hour week.

WOOD WORKERS' COUNCIL.

San Pedro, Cal., May 17.—Woodworkers employed in shipyards of Southern California are organizing a district council—corresponding to the metal trades council—to be known as the San Pedro and Vicinity Maritime District council of shipwrights, joiners, boatbuilders, fasteners, millmen and caulkers. It will have jurisdiction from Santa Barbara to the Mexican border.

OPPOSE TEACHERS' UNION.

Ogden, Utah, May 17.—Two hundred teachers signed an application for a charter and are being assisted by the unions to secure improved conditions that have been denied them by the school authorities who are refusing to re-employ them unless they again sign individual contracts.

WON BACK PAY AND RAISE.

Fort Worth, Texas, May 17.—Differences between the Fort Worth Stock Yards company and its employes was settled on a basis of wage increases and back pay from November 10, last. About 250 workers were affected.

METAL TRADES STRIKE.

Winnipeg, Canada, May 17.—By a unanimous vote the metal trades decided to cease work in all contract shops, the employers refusing to meet the demands of the men for wage increases. The strike affects about 1,000 men.

PILE DRIVERS ASK $8-DAY.

San Francisco, May 17.—Twelve hundred members of the Pile Drivers' Union No. 77 are on strike, demanding $8 for journeymen and $9 for foremen, being an increase of $1 per day.

AWARDED WAGE RAISE.

Peoria, Ill., May 17.—Through a mediator the Structural Iron Workers' union secured a new agreement which gives it a raise from 76 1-2 to 85 cents per hour.

ACCEPTING THE INEVITABLE.

Sacramento, Cal., May 17.—The employes of the Great Southern Lumber company, one of the largest concerns in the world, are joining their various unions.

USURPATION OF POWER INCITES RESENTMENT

Madison, Wis., May 17.—The Capital Times dissents from the decision of the federal court on the child labor law as follows:

"Once more word comes from North Carolina that child labor legislation has been declared unconstitutional.

"A federal judge there has held that the section of the war revenue bill placing a prohibitive tax on the products of child labor entering into interstate commerce is unconstitutional. He is the same federal judge who held the former law on the same subject unconstitutional and whose decision was sustained by the United States supreme court by a vote of 5 to 4.

"If there is one subject on which sentiment in this country has become settled and set it is on the proposition of child labor. This country has in no uncertain way time and again expressed its disapproval of the exploitation of children in the cotton mills of the south.

"And yet in the face of the sentiment of the country a federal judge sets up barriers of unconstitutionality and a supreme court sustains him.

"Considerable preaching is being done in this country about law and order. What, however, is to be expected when the instruments of law and order are used to subvert the interests and demands of the people through the usurpation of a power that has never been granted by the American people—the power to declare a law unconstitutional.

"The American people, in our opinion, are becoming more and more impatient of this practice of permitting a few individuals, bearing no direct responsibility to the people, to riddle and smash laws that have been passed by command of the people."

AUTO WORKERS LOCKED OUT.

Toledo, Ohio, May 17.—Several thousand employes of the Overland automobile and allied companies have been locked out because they refused to lengthen the work day three hours a week.

Several weeks ago the Overland established a so-called profit-sharing plan, which has been described as "50-50 after the company gets theirs."

The entire trade union movement is behind the auto workers. This support includes the four railroad brotherhoods, who have "indorsed any action taken by the central labor union," and the appointment of a committee to meet with the trade unionists for the purpose of starting co-operative stores.

Every anti-union element in this city, has swung behind the Manufacturers' association in an attempt to defeat the men.

The Overland company has expended thousands of dollars to develop a company spirit among its employes. On one occasion it chartered a big circus for two days and gave free tickets to employes and their families. Big league base ball teams, bands, etc., have been paid for by the company, which now attempts to lengthen the work day.

50,000 CO-OP SOCIETIES.

London, May 17.—Russia has 50,000 co-operative societies and the membership of these is found in 20,000,000 heads of families. As the average family is at least five strong, this means 100,000,000 individuals bound in a co-operative movement which operated the strongest bank in Russia—a bank that did a billion dollar business every year; a bank so popular and stable that Lenine and Trotsky dare not touch it. And these co-operative unions deal with bolshevik or Kolchak quite differently. They transcend politics—which in Russia means a miracle.

6,000 ON STRIKE.

Toronto, Canada, May 17.—Six Thousand metal trades workers are on strike for the eight hour day and improved working conditions. They declare: "We fought for 29 months to establish the nine-hour day with an almost depleted treasury. We now have a membership of 100,000 in North America to draw from. Our financial condition today is greatly improved and we will continue the battle until we are successful. There are 1,800 machinists involved in the present struggle."

ITS PROFIT INCREASES

Chicago, May 17.—The annual report of the International Harvester company shows a gain of nearly 20 per cent in net earnings over 1917. The 1918 profits are $14,985,000, against $12,659,000 for last year. This profit represents less than 7 per cent on the net investment, but would have been about 11 per cent had not $10,478,000 been charged off the books on account of depreciation of assets in Russia.

SETTLEMENT REACHED.

Quincy, Ill., May 17.—A satisfactory settlement has been reached between the several stove shops involved and the Stove Mounters' union, terminating a strike that has been on for seven weeks. The agreement provides for an increase of 19 per cent on all base prices, an eight-hour day, with a number of improved shop conditions and readjustments of other low price work.

LABORATORY DEDICATION.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 17.—Federal officials of the principal mining states and leaders of the mining industries and miners' organizations of the country will take part in the dedication of the new $1,000,000 laboratory and workshop of the bureau of mines, here September 29, 30 and October 1.

8 NEW OIL WORKERS' UNIONS.

Fort Worth, Tex., May 17.—President R. E. Evans of the Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers' union reports that eight new unions were organized during April, many of them in California. He also reports that unions are being formed all over the country, especially in Texas and Oklahoma.

WANT AN INCREASE.

Peoria, Ill., May 17.—The Plumbers' and Steam Fitters' unions are out on strike to enforce a new agreement. Some employers have made terms while others are resisting the payment of an increase of $1 per day, making the new scale $7.

15 TO 25 PER CENT MORE.

Cincinnati, Ohio, May 17.—Proprietors of the moving picture theaters increased the wages of their machine operators from 15 to 25 per cent in a new agreement.

BAKERS WIN STRIKE.

Peoria, May 17.—The Bakers' union won its strike and all bakeries have accepted the demands. All work done between 7 p. m. and 5 a. m. calls for $2 extra. Wages agreed on are: Foreman on bread and cakes, day, $30; night, $32; spongers and oven men $25 day; night, $27; bench foremen, $25, day; night, $27; bench and other workmen, $24 day, $26 night.

Seattle, Wash., May 17.—Unions of the baking trades signed up new agreements for the coming year that give increases of $1 a day to about 550 bakers and bakery wagon drivers. The new scale also gives an increase of $2 to all bakers on night shift work. All wages are for eight hours' work. It also covers about 500 cracker and candy workers, most of them girls, who are given increases averaging about 10 per cent.

Portland, Ore., May 17.—Bakers' union has negotiated the following new scale with the employing bakers: Benchmen are to be paid $36 per week and foremen and ovenmen, $38. Jobbers are to receive $7 per day and shall be paid at the end of the shift. Overtime calls for double pay, and no baker shall be employed overtime more than two hours per week when other bakers are available.

Philadelphia, May 17.—Eight hundred members of Bakers' Union No. 6 are striking to secure union shop conditions, a 48-hour week and the following wages: Oven men and dough mixers, $33 per week; assistants, $30.80, and bench hands and helpers, $26.60. Some firms have made settlements, but many of the larger ones have refused.

Tacoma, Wash., May 17. — The union bakers are on strike, the bakers' association refusing to pay $6.50 per day, an increase of $1. An effort is also being made to reestablish night work and refuse women the same wages as men.

Ogden, Utah, May 17.—All bakery proprietors except one signed the new wage scale, dating from May 1.

AGAINST NIGHT WORK.

Chicago, May 17.—While employing bakers throughout the country are resisting the effort of their organized bakery workers to abolish night work these employes show the United States is behind other countries in this matter.

France has passed a law, effective in one year, which prohibits work in bakeries between 10 p. m. and 4 a. m. This applies to all workers who, either directly or indirectly, are concerned in the making of bread or pastry. An exception can be made on the occasion of fairs or holidays or because of the temporary increase in population, but in all such cases the application for an exception must be agreed to by the workers.

In Spain a royal decree, dated April 2, this year, prohibits work in bakeries for a period of six consecutive hours in each 24 hours, which period must be between 8 p. m. and 5 a. m. The work day shall be fixed by agreement between employer and employed but in no case shall it comprise the six hours specified.

R. R. CLERKS PROGRESSING.

Bakersfield, Cal., May 17.—The clerks and station employes of the Santa Fe coast lines from San Francisco to Albuquerque have become members of the Railway Clerks' union. A system of board of adjustments has been formed, with the vice chairman's office in this city. The Northwestern Pacific is also being organized. With that system in line all the Pacific coast lines operated by the United States railroad administration, except some small independent roads, will be under the jurisdiction of the Railway Clerks' union.

UNION SAVINGS BANK.

Tacoma, Wash., May 17. — The financial statement of the Trades Union Savings and Loan association shows that this new institution in the first two months of its existence (March and April) has deposits of $61,147, which is considered a creditable showing for a new co-operative institution. The state auditor credits the bank with being seventeenth in reference to savings and assets in the state. A large part of the bank's assets are in liberty bonds.

FARM WORKERS UNITE.

London, England, May 17.—More than 100,000 British farm workers are unionized. Their organization is known as the National Agricultural Laborers' union. They have more than 2,000 locals. They're urging now a minimum wage of $12 a week for a six-day working week of 44 hours the year around. They would work unavoidable overtime at time and a half for week days and double time for Sunday.

SOLDIERS CARED FOR.

Melbourne, Australia, May 17.—The Australian government has assured the states an advance of $2,125 for every returned soldier who settles on the land, and between $150,000,000 and $200,000,000 for expenditure on public works or the acquisition of land in order to give employment to repatriated Anzacs, according to an announcement made by the minister of repatriation.

48-HOUR WEEK BILL SIGNED.

Boston, Mass., May 17.—Governor Coolidge has signed the bill fixing a 48-hour week and nine-hour day for women and minors working in any line of business in the commonwealth. The governor used five pens in affixing his signature, presenting one to each of those who were especially active in securing the passage of the measure.

MOVIE OPERATORS STRIKE.

Brunswick, Ga., May 17.—Failing to reach an adjustment of the differences between the Moving Picture Operators' union and the owners of the theaters, all of the operators ceased work. Increased wage demand was the cause of the strike.

SEEKING RECOGNITION.

Pittsburg, Kan., May 17.—The Auto Mechanics' union is seeking recognition from the garage and auto repair shops and a uniform wage rate as well the regulation of hours. Several dealers have agreed to the conditions asked.

FEDERAL EMPLOYES UNITE.

Washington, May 17.—A membership gain of 3,000 during April is reported by the National Federation of Federal Employes.

CAN'T EXAMINE MEN TO BREAK UNIONS

Washington, May 17.—Physical examination of workers cannot be used to break up unions, declares Ethelbert Stewart, director of the investigation and inspection service of the United States department of labor.

"Many of our large corporations have a medical examination of employes," he said. "Some times it is all right; more often it is not. Very often these medical examinations are made with the man's questionnaire in front of the doctor; in other words, it is simply a blacklisting proposition. If a man has ever had any sympathy with a trade union, that fellow is not able to do the work; he has something the matter with his heart. There is a feeling among the workmen of the United States that that thing is being used by the company doctors to blacklist trade unionists. In a great many instances they are wrong, but they are right in enough cases to make them mighty chary of the whole proposition. The use of the company physician for examination has been so abused and is so capable of abuses—in some instances it is so infernally rotten—that no help for medical or physical examination by privately paid company or corporation doctors can be secured; in fact, it will be fought from start to finish.

"I believe that every one will agree with me that the place in which any man or woman works is society's business, absolutely; but when society undertakes to regulate that, and puts the regulation into the hands of men who use that power to accomplish an entirely different purpose, a protest is going up from this country that will stir things up a little."

BUILDING TRADES STRIKE.

Des Moines, Iowa, May 17.—Governor Harding has taken a hand in the local dispute between building contractors and the Bricklayers' union, but as yet has not been able to secure a settlement.

The sheet metal workers have signed an agreement with the contractors which carries an advance in wages and the right to affiliate with the building trades council.

The steam fitters and plumbers are taking a vacation until an arrangement can be made with their employers that will be acceptable.

The building laborers are also idle because they have been refused an advance from 60 to 62 1-2 cents per hour.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 17.—The building trades of this city are striking to secure a minimum rate of 75 cents an hour based on the eight-hour day. The contractors have refused the demands of the workers, basing their action on the grounds that they are paying all that conditions permits at this time.

DEMANDS GO TO WAR BOARD.

New York, May 17.—The 10,000 striking expressmen employed by the American Railway Express company have agreed to the offer of the company and government representatives to return to work pending action on their demands by the labor board of the railroad administration. The business of the company was completely tied up during the four days the strike was on. Their demands are for a flat increase of $25 a month for the express handlers and eight-hour day, time and a half for overtime, a week's vacation with pay, with Saturdays and holidays off or double pay.

SCIENTISTS JOIN UNION.

Washington, May 17.—Scientific and technical employes of the government have organized a trade union and affiliated with the National Federation of Federal Employes. Some of these workers favored an independent organization "that would not interfere with their work," but they were outvoted after they failed to indicate how affiliation with the trade union movement would deny them any rights they now have. Trade union advocates showed that if they formed an independent association they would have no influence.

REJECTED THE AWARD.

Peoria, Ill., May 17.—Members of the Boiler Makers' and Helpers' union were compelled to suspend work when two of the firms which had accepted an award by an arbitration board refused to allow its enforcement, the other firm having agreed to the board's finding. Under the award wages are: Preferred rate men receive 90 cents per hour; minimum rate men, 75 cents; helpers, 60 cents, and regular apprentices, 20 cents.

LATHERS GET $1 INCREASE.

Boston, May 17.—The Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' union's strike resulted in a victory that will give the members an increase to $1 per hour, with practically all the men returning to work. The contractors who refused to meet the demands are reported to have no work and therefore are able to make a showing of resistance.

PHONE OPERATORS UNITE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., May 17.—Over 100 telephone operators have formed a union.

Atlanta, Ga., May 17.—The telephone girls have caught the spirit of the times and have formed a union, starting with a membership of over 100.

TEAMSTERS WIN AN ADVANCE.

Montreal, Canada, May 17.—A 16-days' strike of 2,000 teamsters resulted in a victory for these workers, who have established wages of $15 to $20 per week, which is an increase of from $2 to $6, a 10-hour day, time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays.

ACCEPTED CONCILIATION.

Toronto, Canada, May 17.—As the result of a conference between the minister of labor, packing house owners and striking employes, 2,000 strikers returned to work, agreeing to leave their dispute to a board of conciliation.

CLERKS ORGANIZE.

Dallas, Tex., May 17.—A new organization of retail clerks has been added to the unions in this city.

WAITRESSES GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., May 17.—Waitresses' union No. 249 has secured new contracts with a minimum wage of $18 a week.